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REMARKS

In view of the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests allowance of Claims 1-4, 6-20 and 26-30, the only claims pending and under consideration in this application.

Formal Matters

Claims 1 and 26 have been amended to specify subjecting the array to the member of the plurality of different experimental conditions to produce gene expression data; evaluating the gene expression data by clustering the candidate probe sequences into one or more groups of candidate probe sequences based on each candidate probe sequence's collection of empirical gene expression data values to produce clustered probe sequences, in which each of the one or more groups exhibits substantially the same performance across the plurality of experimental conditions; and evaluating any remaining candidate probe sequences not among the clustered probe sequences. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification on page 22, lines 22-34 and page 34, line 14.

Claims 6 and 10 have been amended for clarity. Support for the amendments can be found in the original Claims 6 and 10.

Claims 17-25 have been canceled.

Claim 26 has been amended in a manner similar to Claim 1. Claim 26 has further been amended to specify reporting the identified candidate probe sequences to a user. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification on page 24, line 33 through page 25, line 29.

The remaining amendments to the claims are to make sure that, where appropriate, dependent claims terms have appropriate and clear antecedent basis, to correct typographical errors, and to correct errant dependencies.

Because these amendments add no new matter, entry thereof by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

Claims Under Examination

Nonelected Claims 17-25 have been canceled.